



# Nu's Notes



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Illinois State Organization  
Nu Chapter #13 -- Peoria, IL

**Volume 44, Number 3**

**March 2021 (Distributed for April meeting)**



professional and personal growth of women educators and

excellence in education.

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide (Vision)

### 2020-2022 Officers

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 First Vice President .....  
 Second Vice President ..... Connie Voss  
 Recording Secretary ..... Mary Taylor  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... Kathy Johnson  
 Treasurer ..... Cathy Curtis  
 Parliamentarian ..... Camille Ratcliff  
 Webmaster ..... Mary Jane Sterling  
 Newsletter Editor ..... Dorothy Dean

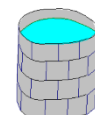
- DKG Society International: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)
- Illinois website: [www.deltakappagamma.org/IL](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/IL)
- Nu Chapter's website: [www.nuchapterdkg.weebly.com](http://www.nuchapterdkg.weebly.com)
- Facebook page: [dkg-illinois key women educators](#)
- CAR Facebook page: [dkg-ilsowiacar](#)
- YouTube: [Delta Kappa Gamma, Illinois, key women educators](#)
- Zoom sessions: [nuchapterdkg@weebly.com](mailto:nuchapterdkg@weebly.com)

## Happy Spring Nu Chapter!

Spring is filled with new beginnings. We see that in the warmer weather, our members receiving their COVID vaccines, and changes within DKG. I am honored to be your Nu Chapter President and part of some of these new beginnings.

Our state convention will be totally virtual this year. Please join the 100+ Illinois State members in signing up and attending some or all of the state convention. You can sign up on [www.deltakappagamma.org/IL](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/IL). You will also see the day-by-day schedule of the convention. If you would rather, I can send you the registration form and the schedule via email. Just let me know! Being part of this virtual experience is a new beginning in the DKG digital age!

If you missed donating to our Malawi Well fund in March, that's OK! You can still send a check to: Cathy Curtis 5004 N. Sheridan Rd. Apt. D Peoria, IL 61614-4890. A new well is a new beginning for folks that have not experienced fresh drinking water close to where they live. What a blessing that we can give.



I hope you can all take 5 minutes to hear Becky Sadowski, our International President, give an update on the sale of headquarters in Austin, Texas. This is a new beginning for our modern DKG society. Our International Executive Board is being transparent, fiscally responsible, and staying up to date on educational issues worldwide. Log onto [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org), On the International site, there is a large revolving screen on the home page. Becky's video is on this screen.

Celebrate these and other new beginnings in your life. It is through these that we grow, change, and experience all that life has to offer!

Embracing the new beginnings with you,  
Barb

## THANK YOU!

I want to take a moment to thank the Nu Chapter Executive Board members. This group of dedicated women have been faithfully meeting on Zoom once a month through this pandemic. These women have directed my path and understanding the role of being president. I appreciate all of you: Carol Sleeth, Connie Voss, Cam Ratcliff, Chris Berto, Cathy Curtis, Kathi Johnson, MaryJane Sterling, and Mary Taylor. I also want to thank Karen Ball for all her support in this transition. There are lots of little pieces that Karen is still helping me put together! -- Barb



## Making Nu Pathways

Making Nu Pathways is designed to communicate chapter happening/events/notices.

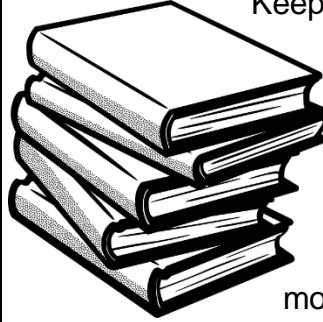
Meeting information, agenda, minutes, treasurer's reports, notices, etc., will be emailed by Connie Voss. Connie will call those who do not have email.

Members are asked to respond to emails or calls when requested.

Connie Voss [REDACTED]

If you know of someone who needs our attention, please let one of the officers know.

## READ...READ...READ



Keep track of minutes you have been reading since March. We will let you know how Shirley will collect them. Need more to read?

DKG DISCUSSION BOOKS...See website for more info

## Membership Committee



Recommendations for membership may be submitted at any time to the Membership Committee or an officer.

## Cookbook

As part of the Women in the Arts activities in our State Convention, and the usual Chapter Bazaar, two of the chapters (Nu and Beta Pi) have been putting together a cookbook, "Delicious Kitchen Gambits" with recipes contributed by DKG members. There are over 200 recipes in the cookbook, and they are wonderful! It will be available at the time of the State Convention, in mid-April.



You can order a printed version of the cookbook for \$15. Or, if you prefer, you can get the pdf version for \$5. If you want both, it's \$18. Order the cookbook from LaVonne Chaney,

[REDACTED]. You'll be able to see the printed version during the State Convention's Auction – one of the copies is being auctioned off.



## Upcoming State Convention

Our Illinois State Convention will be virtual this year. As disappointing as it is that we won't get to see people in person, there are going to be some huge advantages:

- The events are spread over nine days. You don't have to pick-and-choose between sessions offered at the same time. Every session has its own time slot.
- There will be workshops, book reviews, and 10-minute takeaways. Some of the workshops offer PDs.
- There is no registration fee. But you may elect to make a donation to a DKG fund, if you wish. You can just register!
- There's no travel or hotel cost!!

To get the brief Nine Day Schedule and/or the Master Schedule, just go to our State website and scroll down to the second item in the listing of links: 2021 DKG ILSO Virtual Convention. Hope to "see" you there!

## Need Cards

The corresponding Secretary noticed we are getting low on Sympathy Cards. I know some of us receive the free greeting cards from Non-Profit Agencies (looking for donations!).

If you've gotten some and aren't going to send the Sympathy cards personally, would you save them for DKG? We hope to be meeting in person sometime relatively soon and you could bring them to that meeting. Or if you would let Kathy Johnson know, she could come pick them up from you. Thanks so very much.

## International Project

Watch for news. Creative Shirley has wonderful ideas for fundraising this year.

## Dues 2021

Just a friendly reminder that DKG dues are due by June 30. The Finance committee will announce the dues amount at the April meeting. You can send your check to Cathy Curtis, 5004 N. Sheridan Road, 61614, bring it to the plant exchange in May, or drop it off for Cathy at the Peoria Notre Dame office.



## Day Trippin' with Nu

As Nu members contributed directions for a great day trip, the first road suggested was the electronic super-highway. The website **Only in Illinois** will send you a daily newsletter with hundreds of great places to visit in Illinois. (go to [www.onlyinourstate.com](http://www.onlyinourstate.com) and choose your state via the drop-down listing or click on SUBSCRIBE, and then click on Illinois or any other state; you can sign up for multiple states.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

Two day-trip destinations were recommended by more than one member. Woody's Diner in

LeRoy (east on I-74) was the first. From Woody's you can continue east (I-57, I-80, I-94 and US 12) to the SW corner of Michigan where you'll find fields of blueberries to pick yourself or to purchase at farm stands. Heading south (US 31 or I-69) you'll also find lots of U-Pick fruits and veggies on the back-road farms south of Indianapolis in the direction of Louisville (I-65). Throughout Indiana you'll discover many good museums including the one at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The second doubly-recommended sites were Lock and Dam #14 on the Mississippi River at LeClaire, Iowa (I-80 and US67) and #18 at Gladstone, Illinois (US 34 and Ill. 164). There you will find hundreds of eagles in the winter and hundreds of pelicans in June. If you like nature, you'd also like to see the sunflowers in July at the Jubilee College State Park (off Thousand Mile Road, past the Jubilee entrance, to all the way down to a large field on the left) and the water lilies and swans of Spring Lake (south of Pekin on Illinois 29.)

The roads of importance in Knoxville and Galesburg (west on I-74) are the railroads. Knoxville and Galesburg offer many sites worthy of a visit, a meal or an overnight stay including the Railroad and the Underground Railroad museums. The restored Shell station in Knoxville, the Carl Sandburg home, historic churches, the Orpheum theater, Knox College, Old Main (site of a Lincoln-Douglas debate), and an antique mall on Seminary Street are all interesting. The Big Catz BBQ, the Packinghouse, and the Landmark Café and Creperie are recommended restaurants. If your day-trip lasts more than a day, you can spend the night at the Galesburg East Campground in Knoxville.

Following the Great River Road south of St. Louis you can explore the historic French settlements of the 18th century. First stop is Fort de Chartres, built in 1720, which has lots of history – military, French, Native American, American - and lots of space to run around

(children) and explore. Prairie du Rocher is a small French village considered to be the center of this region that is hoping to become a National Park.

Further south on the Great River Road you can visit the Rock Shelter at Modoc where Illinois's first inhabitants took shelter 9,000 years ago, the elegant Pierre Menard house (built in 1800 in Ellis Grove), Chester, the home of Pop-eye and the horseradish capital of the world, and Kaskaskia, Illinois' first capital. You can cross the Mississippi by bridge at Chester or by ferry at Modoc and spend the rest of the day in Sainte Genevieve, MO. with its French architecture, antique shops, parks, wineries, and waterpark.

Another day-trip in Illinois will take you down the "Mother Road", historic Route 66, to Litchfield. Vic Shilings Gas Station is now the Welcome Center for Route 66 where you'll find directions to the Jubelt's Bakery, the Litchfield Pickers' Market (second Sunday of the month), the Ariston Café (oldest café on Route 66) and the Skyview Drive In. Get your kicks on Route 66.

The final trip follows the most ancient path – the Illinois River. The Spirit of Peoria will take you through the locks and up to Starved Rock State Park where you can hike, view the waterfalls, see the eagles, visit the Lock and Dam headquarters and have dinner and an overnight in the historic lodge.

Whether you travel the interstate, the back-road, the Mother Road, the Railroad, the Great River Road or the River, you'll find lots to see and do when you go "day-trippin' – yeh."

## Donation Possibilities

As you probably know by now, we have not made plans for donations for the near future because of complications caused by COVID. We do also know that there still families in need, and in growing number.

Here are just a few places in Peoria that run food pantries that could use donated goods in case you would like to donate on your own. It would be practical to call them first, though, to make sure they are open and accepting donations, since things can change in this COVID world.

East Bluff Community Center, 512 E. Kansas, 839-0781

Neighborhood House, 1020 S. Matthews, 674-1131

Peoria Friendship House, 800 NE Madison, 671-5200

The Salvation Army, 417 NE Adams, 655-7272

Maybe you know some others as well. Some commonly needed items for pantries are: canned meat or fish, soup, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, rice, cereal, tuna in pouches, laundry products, toiletries. Keep in mind that some individuals don't have facilities for cooking, so plan accordingly.

If dropping off food is not practical for you, consider giving a monetary donation to any of the above or to one of the area food banks. The food banks distribute food widely to pantries and other organizations and programs that serve people in need. You can mail a donation or donate online.

Peoria Area Food Bank (part of PCCEO), 721 W. McBean, 671-3906,  
<https://www.peoriafoodbank.org/donate/>.

Midwest Food Bank, 9005 Industrial Drive, 691-5270,  
<https://midwestfoodbank.org/locations/peoria-il/donate-peoria>

If you would like to locate other pantries or a wide variety of area services for all ages, you can access the Heart of Illinois 2-1-1 Referral Service by calling 211, or 309-999-4029, or checking the database at [211hoi.org](http://211hoi.org).

## Yearbook Updates

p. 2 Insert Mrs. Karen Ball 7/2020-1/2021

p. 3 Replace Karen Ball with:

Barb Blanco [REDACTED]

p. 6 Replace President - Karen Ball with:

Barb Blanco [REDACTED]

Under First Vice-President, correct email to [REDACTED]

p. 12 LeBlanc should read 111 39<sup>th</sup> St.

p. 33 On committees listed, replace Karen Ball, ex officio with Barb Blanco, ex officio

Karen Ball will remain a member of Membership; Barb Blanco will Chair

p. 47 Replace Karen Ball with Barb Blanco [REDACTED]

## Past Meeting Minutes

### NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting, January 7, 2021

Approved at the February 2, 2021  
General Business Meeting

**Program** "Day Trippin" was presented by Nu Chapter members who each shared a favorite Day Trip. Cathy Curtis will summarize trips in a travelogue, and it was suggested that a similar program be considered for next year.

**Business Meeting** Second Vice-President Connie Voss called the virtual Zoom business meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. followed by the recitation of *A Collect for Teachers*. A quorum was present with seven members in attendance. State Ambassador Loryann Eis attended as a guest

**Minutes** The minutes of the October 7, 2020 General Membership Meeting were approved as printed and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Cathy Curtis) The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance November 16, 2020 \$33.46; Income \$126.00 (\$76.00 Dues, \$50.00 Malawi Well); Disbursements \$15.11 (\$15.11 Dorothy Dean, December *Nu's Notes* printing/postage) Checking Account Balance as of January 7, 2021 \$144.35; CEFCU Savings Balance \$23.95; CEFCU Money Market account \$7,743.68; Total Balance January 7, 2021 \$7,911.98. In addition to the \$50.00 Malawi Well Fund donation in the report, Cathy Curtis stated she had received another \$50.00 Malawi Well fund donation. Cathy reported the December 8, 2020 death of Demetra Polites.

**Communications and Marketing** Kathy Johnson reported the following were cards were sent: holiday greetings via email or USPS to all Nu members; sympathy cards to Joy Wojtas, Cathy Curtis, and the family and friend of Demetra Polites; and birthday cards to Laveine Birditt and Gail Thigpen. Dorothy Dean noted the March 7<sup>th</sup> *Nu's Notes* deadline and that the printing/distribution costs of *Nu's Notes* were within budget. Chris Berto referred members to yearbook updates in the December *Nu's Notes*. Mary Jane Sterling shared that the links for 9 Days of Convention 2021 will be posted on the Nu Chapter website.

**Membership** It was reported that former member Johanne Grewell had died and that Mary Sutton had been hospitalized.

**Finance** (Mary Jane Sterling) Mary Jane Sterling discussed the possibility of Nu and Beta Pi chapters jointly participating in Chapter Bazaar by publishing/selling a cookbook (electronic and printed form) and splitting proceeds following 25% contribution to ILSO fund(s).

**Nominations** (Connie Voss) Slates for elected ILSO positions and the form for ILSO Committee appointments are posted on the ILSO website.

**Educational Excellence** Master Gardener Larry Stratton will present "Perfect Perennials in Peoria" via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. February 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by the business meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**Unfinished Business** None.

**New Business** None.

**Announcements** Cathy Curtis thanked members for cards sent following the death of her mother.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Mary Taylor, Secretary  
Connie Voss, Second Vice-President

## NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting, February 2, 2021

**To Be Approved at the March 8, 2021  
General Business Meeting**

**Program** Larry Stratton, U of I Extension Master Gardener (also a Bradley technology professor and associated with Corn Stock and Peoria Players), presented *Perfect Perennials in Peoria* via a slideshow on Zoom.

**Business Meeting** President Barb Blanco called the virtual Zoom business meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. followed by the recitation of *A Collect for Teachers*. A quorum was present with 10 members in attendance. Barb Blanco thanked Karen Ball who resigned as president and is planning to move to the Chicago area.

**Minutes** The minutes of the January 7, 2021 General Membership Meeting were approved as printed and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Cathy Curtis) The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance January 7, 2021 \$144.35; Income \$50.00 (\$50.00 Malawi Well donation); Disbursements \$0.00; Checking Account Balance January 25, 2021 \$194.35; CEFCU Savings Account Balance (Extraordinary Dividend \$5.71) \$29.66; CEFCU Money Market account (interest and dividend credit \$1.91) \$7,745.59; Total Balance January 25, 2021 \$7,969.60.

**Communications and Marketing** Kathy Johnson sent sympathy cards to Bev Johns and Johanne Grewell's daughter and a get-well card to Mary Sutton. *Nu's Notes* deadline is March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mary Jane Sterling will post on Nu's website convention and ILSO Zoom meetings information. Our website had 369 hits, different states, New Jersey and Kentucky are regulars. Illinois is a leader in how to connect and share with members via Zoom. Appreciation is given to Bev Johns for her Zoom knowledge and guidance. Yearbook updates will appear in the March *Nu's Notes*. Women's Civic Federation has not met due to Covid.

**Finance** (Mary Jane Sterling) Mary Jane Sterling stated that the Finance Committee will meet in March and requested that chairs and officers submit requests for 2021-2022 budget allocations and consider if a Zoom Pro subscription fee should be included in the budget.

**Educational Excellence** Barb Blanco will lead a Zoom book discussion on *Something Work Doing* March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The April 6<sup>th</sup> (2:45 p.m. sign on) scheduled meeting will be held via Zoom. Roberta English will present *What's New at Wildlife Prairie Park*.

**Professional Advancement and Outreach** Carol Sleeth reported that Cynthia Baldwin will make ornaments for the Chapter Bazaar auction. Mary Jane Sterling reminded members of the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the cookbook she and LaVonne Chaney are creating. Chris Berto forwarded ILSO Student

Literary Arts information to Lakeview Librarian Katy Bauml who will encourage K-8 patrons to participate. Members were encouraged to send \$15.00 to Cathy Curtis Malawi Well Fund donations (from now through March) so that Nu Chapter may purchase a well when the goal of \$450 has been achieved.

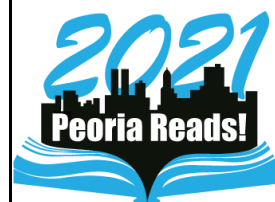
**Coordinating Council** Connie Voss shared that the Coordinating Council will meet February 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the April 17, 2021 joint meeting. Nu Chapter is responsible for the program at the 2022 joint meeting.

**Unfinished Business** None.

**New Business** None.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Mary Taylor, Secretary  
Barb Blanco, President



**Peoria Reads!**  
*Read the book*  
*and get involved!*

. . . with this year's Peoria Reads! book, *The Library Book*, by Susan Orlean.

"In *The Library Book*, Orlean chronicles the 1986 suspicious and destructive fire at the Los Angeles Public Library, as well as its aftermath, to highlight the crucial role libraries play in our personal lives and our communities. From the humble beginnings of libraries to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity, Orlean brings libraries – even the charred remains of one – to life. Part history. Part mystery. All heart." says Roberta Koscielski, Chair of Peoria Reads! and our own Nu member who will facilitate our chapter's discussion of the book on May 5, 2021 at 2:15 p.m. Zoom or outdoor location will be announced later.

This is a fitting book as Peoria Reads! and the Peoria Public Library celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Peoria Reads! Peoria Reads! will kick things off during National Library Week, April 4-10, and continue through the summer reading program ending the end of July.

Copies of the book are available for check out at PPL locations, so get a copy and start reading! Also available, large print, book on CD, audiobook, and ebook. There are no free giveaway copies this year. If you have trouble accessing the book, contact Robert.

So---start reading and join us on May 5<sup>th</sup>!

## CONVENTION BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS

Please refer to the NU website for a synopsis:

- Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly;
- Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover;
- Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens;
- The Day The World Came To Town by JimDeFede.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Nu Chapter Meetings

Here are 2020-2021 meeting dates. Watch your email and/or the chapter web site for details.

- April 17 Coordinating Council, Pekin Country Club
- May 5 (Zoom) The Library Book book discussion via Zoom: 2:00 sign in, 2:15 program: Peoria Reads book discussion with our own Roberta Koscielski 3:00 meeting....If the weather

is nice, we may meet outside. Stay tuned!

- Your Executive Board is also planning a plant exchange in May. Our meeting in February, with the presentation by Larry Stratton, inspired us. We would like to share the beauty in our yards with one another. Watch for news about where and when for this event!
- June 5 (Zoom) The Library Book book discussion via Zoom: 10:00 sign in, 10:15 meeting; 10:45 program

## Other

April: LaVonne Cheney is taking orders for the Lambda State cookbook. She and our very own Mary Jane have been working hard to put that together. Hardcopies \$15.00 Electronic copies \$5.00: Send your checks to LaVonne Cheney [REDACTED]

April 20-28: ILSO convention via Zoom

May 1: Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies Stipend application deadline

May 1: Cornetet Individual Award application due

## Check the website for scholarship deadlines

The deadline for applications for stipends from the Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc. has been changed to May 1, 2021, and November 1, 2021. Guidelines, rubric, and the application form can be found under Foundation on the state website: [www.deltakappagamma.org/IL/](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/IL/)

